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ANTHROPOLOGY.[1]

Association Notes.—The meetings of the British and the American Association in coöperation brought together many anthropologists of distinction, and the papers read were of uncommon interest.

At the British Association the important feature was the address of vice-president Tylor on some American aspects of anthropology. A few of the topics discussed in the paper were:

The effect of a quarter of a century's research the giving to Quaternary man a more and more real position.

Did man likewise inhabit America at the same period?

Are the present Eskimo the remnant of such an early race?

(Upon this last point Mr. Tylor suggested a yachting cruise down the coast of Labrador to fix the locality of Vine-land.)

The recent advances of zoölogy and geology have given new breadth and facility to the discussion of the relation of the North American aborigines to Asiatic peoples.

The only safe method of philologic research is the combination of dictionary and grammar. Attempts to trace analogies of words in Asiatic and American languages have proved no correspondence beyond what chance coincidence would produce.

The comparison of peoples according to their social framework has not assumed a great importance.

The tendency to treat everything prehistoric as necessarily o great antiquity is growing weaker.

The northward drift of ancient American civilization is evidenced by the distribution of maize, tobacco and cocoa, and the spread of agriculture.

Mr. Horatio Hale read a treatise on "The origin and nature of wampum." It was a notable fact, he said, that while the partly civilized Indians of Central and South America carried on commerce without money, among those of the United States and Canada a monetary currency was in common use. Their wampum was formed in the shape of small disks or cylinders, of shells perforated through the center and strung together on strings of deer's sinew. The system had been found so convenient for purposes of exchange that it had even been adopted by some of the early colonists. In most cases the material was the conch periwinkle and *Venus mercenaria*. The colors were white and purple, or black—which was twice as valuable as the white, on account of its rarity. These shell arrangements differed from the cowries of the East Indies. In course of time they came to have a social and political significance. Important acts of state policy were confirmed by the gift or exchange of them. On the occasion of treaties belts of wampum were presented. Each belt had its own device woven in white on a dark ground, or *vice versa*. The rude pictorial emblems generally employed resembled the early Chinese characters. Wampum was also devoted to sacrificial and funeral ceremonies. It has been found in abundance in the mounds of the Mississippi valley; and, in our own times, was in vogue west of the Rocky mountains. In traffic, the value was rated sometimes by the length of the strings, sometimes by the number of beads. There was a larger kind, consisting of oblong strips, with holes for stringing. Going far to the westward there was found among the Micronesian islanders an almost similar usage. They made their wampum of the disks of shells, of cocoa-nuts or of the tortoise-shell. In the Loo-Choo islands the inhabitants had what was known as "cash," small circular copper coins. The Chinese themselves anciently used tortoise-shells. Of the earliest Chinese copper money, some pieces were round, others oblong. The Celestials had also mock-money, made of tin foil and paper for sacrificial uses, which might be taken as evidence that their money at first consisted of combustible material. The inference to be drawn from the existence of such media of commercial exchange among those oriental peoples was, that at some period the idea of shell money had been carried from East Asia or Micronesia to the shores of America. The fact that Japanese junks had been known to be wrecked on the Pacific coast was to the point in the argument. The Micronesians, moreover, were accustomed to make protracted voyages in their well-rigged vessels, and it was not impossible that some of their craft might have drifted to our shores where the occupants would come in contact with the Indians. Whether, however, the use of wampum was derived from the East or not, it could not be denied that it gave evidence of good intellectual powers. It was to be regretted that a subject of such interest had been so long treated with indifference in America. At present there was great scarcity of wampum belts, though some that had been preserved were of deep interest and of considerable historical value. One which was shown to the audience was said to be 160 years old. It was of rare beauty of make and significant design. Four dark squares (the rest being of white beads) were interpreted to mean four Indian towns. Another which Mr. Hale exhibited was even more remarkable in its structure, displaying emblematic figures. The use of wampum for mnemonic purposes was also explained, and Mr. Hale showed photographs of the chiefs (Six Nations) to whom he was indebted for his interpretation. Interesting to Canadians were some beads found in Orillia county by Mr. Hirschfelder, who believed they had been the property of the Hurons.

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[1] Edited by Professor Otis T. Mason, National Museum, Washington, D. C.

The paper gave rise to a most animated discussion, in which Mr. Cushing (who had spent so many years among the Zuñi Indians), Mrs. Erminnie Smith, Mr. Putnam, Major Powell and Dr. Tylor took part. All the speakers expressed the deep satisfaction with which they had listened to the paper, and their gratitude to Mr. Hale for the light that he had shed on a subject so important.

The address of Professor E. S. Morse, as vice-president of Section H of the American Association, was upon Man in the Tertiaries, the full text of which was given in the October NATURALIST.

The following papers were read at the meeting:

Uses of the emblematic mounds. Stephen D. Peet.

The lineal measures of the semi-civilized nations. D. G. Brinton.

Description of the skeletons and skulls found in the large mound of the Turner group. Miss C. A. Studley.

The sacred pipes of friendship. Frank LaFleche.

Some observations upon the usage, symbolism and influence of the sacred pipes of fellowship among the Omahas. Alice C. Fletcher.

Notes upon some quartz objects from Central Minnesota. Miss F. E. Babbitt.

The importance of the study of primitive architecture to an understanding of the pre-historic age in America. Stephen D. Peet.

Local weather lore. Amos W. Butler.

Some characteristics of the Indian earth and shell mounds on the Atlantic coast of Florida. Andrew E. Douglass.

The manner in which Indians made their stone implements. P. R. Hoy.

Disputed points concerning Iroquois pronouns. Erminnie A. Smith.

The use of the plough in Japan. Edward S. Morse.

The sacrificial stone of San Juan Teotihuacan. A. W. Butler.

Mythology of the Wintuns. J. W. Powell.

Archæological explorations by the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology, communicated at the request of the trustees of the museum. F. W. Putnam.

Interviews with a Korean. Edward S. Morse.

Some parallelism in the evolution of races in the old and new world. Daniel Wilson.

On the geographical distribution of labretifery. W. H. Dall.

Remarks on North American races and civilization. E. B. Tylor.

Upon the evolution of a race of deaf-mutes in America. A. Graham Bell.

The occurrence of man in the Upper Miocene of Nebraska. Edward D. Cope.

The three culture periods. J. W. Powell.

A search in British North America for the lost colonies of Northmen and Portuguese. D. G Haliburton.

Eastern archery. Edward S. Morse.

Formation of Iroquois words. Erminnie A. Smith.

The different races who built mounds in Wisconsin. Stephen D. Peet.

Evolution of animal life illustrated by study of emblematic mounds. Stephen D. Peet.

Etymology of the Iroquois word Rha-wen-ni-yu. Erminnie A. Smith.

A CORRECTION.—In noticing the brochure on the Okadaira shell mound, at Hitachi, the editor of these notes, in praising the Japanese explorers, inadvertently did injustice to Professor Morse. It is well known to all of the readers of the NATURALIST that the entire credit of the exploration in the Omori shell-mound, and of the publication of the results, is due to Professor Morse, and no one would be more willing to acknowledge that fact than the present writer.